



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT  
SECRETARY

May 25, 2004

**TO:** Division Engineers

**FROM:** Meredith McDiarmid, PE, Traffic Control Project Engineer

**SUBJECT:** New Work Zone Advance Warning Signs Usage on Current Projects

As most of you are aware, beginning with the January 2005 Let, the retro-reflective sheeting on all work zone signs will be changed from Type I sheeting (engineer grade) to Type VII, VIII or IX sheeting (prismatic). In addition, the legends on advance warning signs will change from "Begin Work Zone" to "Road Work Ahead" and "End Work Zone" to "End Road Work". You will see these changes reflected in project contracts.

In an effort to maximize existing inventories of both prime and sub contractors, the Traffic Control Unit is allowing the use of the "new" signs on current projects with the following conditions:

- (1) New sheeting types and legends shall not be mixed with the current sheeting and legends on a roadway (-L- & -Y- lines) in one direction (i.e. all signs northbound must be uniform sheeting and legend). Utilizing a different type of sheeting in the opposite direction (i.e. southbound) is acceptable as long as it has a uniform sheeting type and legend.
- (2) On resurfacing or NC Moving Ahead projects where "Rough Road", "Low/Soft Shoulder", "Do Not Pass", "Unmarked Pavement", or "Uneven Pavement" signs are used, it is acceptable for these specific signs to have Type I sheeting (engineer grade) until the January 2005 Let.

Please call Chris Howard or myself at (919) 250-4159 if you have any questions.

MMM

cc: Steve DeWitt, PE, Director of Construction  
Stuart Bourne, PE, Traffic Control Unit Head  
Steve Varnedoe, PE, Chief Engineer of Operations  
(Attn: Bill Rosser, PE, Director of Field Operations)  
Division Construction Engineers  
Jim Babcock, Carolinas ATSSA Chapter President